

By: Thompson, Frank

H.B. No. 1955

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an early childhood mental health home visiting grant program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 137, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH HOME VISITING GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 137.301. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH HOME VISITING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish and operate an early childhood mental health home visiting grant program through which the commission will award grants to implement, expand, and maintain early childhood mental health home visiting services in this state to support families with a high level of need, including a history of trauma.

(b) To be eligible for a grant under this subchapter, an applicant must:

(1) demonstrate a commitment to a family-centered, system of care approach to providing comprehensive, coordinated services to children and families; and

(2) have experience providing successful early childhood mental health or prevention services for low-income, high-risk families, as the executive commissioner determines by

1 rule.

2 (c) In awarding a grant under this subchapter, the
3 commission shall give preference to applicants with experience in
4 providing home-based services to children and families.

5 (d) The commission may award a grant under this subchapter
6 only in accordance with a contract between the commission and grant
7 recipient. The contract must include provisions under which the
8 commission is granted sufficient control to ensure the public
9 purpose of providing early childhood mental health home visiting
10 services is accomplished and this state receives the return
11 benefit.

12 Sec. 137.302. STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS. (a) The
13 executive commissioner by rule shall adopt standards for grant
14 recipients under this subchapter. In adopting the standards, the
15 executive commissioner shall take into consideration applicable
16 evidence-based early childhood home visiting service delivery
17 models.

18 (b) In addition to meeting the standards the executive
19 commissioner adopts under Subsection (a), a grant recipient under
20 this subchapter must:

21 (1) strictly adhere to an evidence-based early
22 childhood service delivery model the commission selects in
23 accordance with criteria set by the United States Department of
24 Health and Human Services for an early childhood home visiting
25 service delivery model; and

26 (2) require that a team consisting of a licensed
27 mental health professional and a care coordinator support families

1 through home-based services to:

2 (A) improve child and parent mental health;

3 (B) promote school readiness;

4 (C) decrease child abuse and neglect; and

5 (D) improve the immediate and long-term health
6 and well-being of families.

7 Sec. 137.303. FUNDING. The commission may solicit,
8 contract for, receive, accept, or administer gifts, grants, and
9 donations of money or property from any source to carry out this
10 subchapter.

11 Sec. 137.304. RULES. The executive commissioner may adopt
12 rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.